

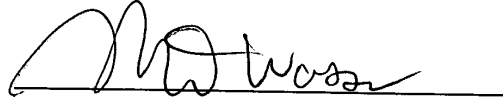
platform through which inventory information is provided from three sets of vendors, search time participants, order time participants and real time participants to one or more buyers. This inventory information is updated during different times of a 24 hour day. The inventory information from a search time participant would be transmitted to the exchange platform perhaps once or twice a day. Inventory information from the order time participants would be transmitted to the exchange platform at a greater frequency not to exceed every five minutes. Inventory information from the real time participants would be transmitted to the exchange platform in real time whenever inventory information is changed.

The buyer would then have an opportunity to review the information included in the exchange platform provided by the search time participants, the order time participants and the real time participants. If the buyer was interested in purchasing inventory from the search time participant, a purchase order would be sent directly to the search time participant via telephone, e-mail or the like, but not through exchange platform. When dealing with an order time participant, the buyer would transmit a purchase order directly to an order time approval program contained in the exchange platform. This purchase order would request the purchase of a particular item either at the price proposed by the order time participant or a target price proposed by the buyer. The order time participant would then have the opportunity to accept or reject the purchase order. Similarly, the buyer would transmit a purchase order to the real time participant who would also have the opportunity to accept or reject the purchase order.

With the present amendment, the undersigned is including new claims 23-29 detailing the invention with more specificity than the subject matter recited in claims 16-22. However, the undersigned has not cancelled claims 16-22 since it is believed that these claims also recite the invention in a patentable manner.

It is believed that all of the claims now contained in this application recite the invention in a precise manner not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art. Consequently, allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Wasson', is written over a horizontal line.

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